

PLAY OF FRENCH WAR AND LOVE

"A SON OF THE PEOPLE" PROVES TO BE TWO-THIRDS GOOD.

Stirring Presentation of Dramatic Emotion in a Period of Turmoil With No Moral and No Lesson—Wobbly in Last Act—John Mason's Work.

For two out of its three acts "A Son of the People," which had its first American performance last evening at the New Theatre, proved a rather more than commonly diverting entertainment. The play has no message. It contains no moral. There is no lesson to be derived from witnessing it. It merely tells its story in a way that is interesting and holds its own.

Of the third act so much cannot be said. For two-thirds is better than nothing at all. It is perfectly true that if one-third of an act is bad the other two-thirds are not of much use, but it is perhaps fortunate for players that this truth, so unexceptionable in the case of eggs, is not quite absolute in the matter of plays.

"A Son of the People" is a translation of a play originally known as "A Revolutionary Wedding," by a Danish writer called Sophus Michaëlis, which has been performed with considerable success abroad. It deals with events supposed to have taken place in the days of the French Revolution, in the month of April, 1793, to be precise. The *Marquis de Trevelin*, a royalist fugitive, ventures back into France for the purpose of marrying *Alain de L'Estois*, the daughter of a nobleman, to whom he has been betrothed since childhood. Short as his stay is, he is captured in the home of his bride, and is taken to the guillotine. It is a detachment of revolutionary soldiers under the command of *Col. Marc Arzon*.

Commander *Arzon* is of the Committee of Public Safety, which at about that time began to rule France with practically dictatorial powers, and decides to hold a court-martial in answer to a single question and is condemned to death. The girl is spared. *Arzon* is clearly deeply impressed with the girl's fortitude and it is at his request that *Moniteur*, the son of the girl, is sent to the guillotine with her. The girl's husband is spared.

But *Moniteur*, who is only shown in the background, is a coward. He does nothing but cower his face and moan. *Arzon* is sent for. The girl offers him a bribe to spare him. *Arzon* offers him a bribe to spare him. The girl offers him a bribe to spare him. The girl offers him a bribe to spare him.

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THE ORATORIO SOCIETY.

Bach's "Magnificat" and Parker's "Horn Nostalgia" Sung.

The Oratorio Society at its third concert last night in Carnegie Hall gave Bach's "Magnificat" and Horatio Parker's "Horn Nostalgia." The composition of Bach is not often performed, which is a pity. It is the song of the Virgin looking forward to the birth of Christ and was written for the evening service of Christmas at the St. Thomas Church (Leipzig), where it was the custom to sing the hymn of the Virgin in its Latin form after the sermon.

Bach's setting is conceded to be one of the noblest creations of his genius. The work is for five part chorus with accompaniment of organ, strings, two oboes, three trumpets and drums. The text is treated partly for chorus and partly for solo voices. The original instrumentation is seldom heard. Bach, like other musical prophets, has had to bend under the ruthless hand of the emendator and the instrumentation generally heard is that of Robert Franz, who also made new accompaniments for "The Messiah."

In some particulars the "additional accompaniments," as they are called, make the music more palatable to modern ears, but it is unfortunate that other alterations disguise the true character of Bach's writing. For example, *Fans* lowered the trumpet parts a whole octave, and the change necessitated other alterations so that the effect of high and clear brilliancy designed by the composer was lost. Again in the "Miserere" the accompaniment for two flutes, viola and bass was so reorchestrated that the exquisite transparency of the flute parts was destroyed. These are merely samples of the work of the emendator.

Horatio Parker's "Horn Nostalgia" is one of the American compositions which have met with favor across the Atlantic. It is by no means unknown to music lovers in this city, and it carries its honors gracefully. It wears well, and at each repetition lends new dignity to American music art.

Last night's presentation of the two works was creditable to the Oratorio Society. The chorus showed the results of careful rehearsal and the soloists discharged their duties as oratorio soloists generally do in these days. Edith Chapman Gould, soprano; Janet Spencer, contralto; Bertrik Von Norden, tenor, and Horatio Connell, bass, were the soloists.

The performance of Mr. Parker's work, with more spirit and communicative force than that of the Bach composition. This alone, however, could not account for the enthusiasm with which the audience received every number. This was a tribute to an American work gracious enough in itself, and still more significant in its demonstration of the fact that prophets are not inevitably without honor in their own country.

WIND INSTRUMENT MUSIC.

A Successful First Concert by the New Barrere Ensemble.

The Barrere Ensemble is the somewhat indefinite title of a new organization of wind instrument players under the direction of George Barrere, the first flutist of the Symphony Orchestra. Its first concert was given yesterday afternoon in the "Stuyvesant Theatre" before an audience both large and demonstrative. The composition presented were Haydn's *Octet in F major* for oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns. Handel's *Sonata in B minor* for flute and harpsichord. Mozart's *C minor* serenade for the eight instruments. Beethoven's *Octet*, opus 10, also for oboes, clarinets, horns and bassoons.

The kind of music performed at this concert is rarely heard in these days of great orchestral concerts and string chamber compositions. It is a music of chamber composition, and contains numerous delightful and interesting works. Yesterday's audience testified by hearty applause to its enjoyment of the music, and it is not surprising that the music is so popular.

Mr. Barrere has brought together players who are masters of their instruments. The technical precision and clarity of yesterday's performances were most admirable, but perhaps still more praiseworthy was the ensemble, which was well executed. The music was well played, and the ensemble was well executed.

Mr. Barrere himself was heard in the two flute sonatas, of which Arthur Whiting played with skill and taste the harpsichord parts.

AT THE METROPOLITAN.

Two New Russian Ballet Dancers Appear and Receive Much Applause.

A large audience assembled at the Metropolitan Opera House last night when Massenet's "Werther" and Delibes' "Coppelia" were given. The Massenet opera had already been given at the New Theatre and it moved down to the opera house with the same cast. Miss Farrar as *Charlotte*, Miss Gluck as *Sophie*, Mr. Clement as *Werther*, and Mr. Gilly as *Alfred*. The performance was very successful, and the audience was very much pleased. The ballet of Delibes served to introduce Anna Pavlova, a Russian dancer who excited Paris last summer. With her was associated Michael Mordine, another Russian dancer. As the ballet followed the opera the hour was late, and the audience was very much pleased. The ballet was very successful, and the audience was very much pleased.

NEW THEATRE CHANGES.

Seating to Be Lowered and the Topmost Gallery to Be Eliminated.

The alterations in the New Theatre which in the opinion of its founders and directors will make it more suitable for dramatic purposes have been arranged by Arthur Whiting, the original architect, who worked in the first instance under the old conditions imposed by Heinrich Conrad. Mr. Conrad's original conditions required a seating capacity of somewhat more than the house holds now. The founders and directors believe that a smaller auditorium is better suited to their purposes.

The ceiling is to be lowered to the level of the proscenium arch and stage, and the topmost gallery is to be eliminated. The so-called foyer stalls are to disappear altogether, and where that balcony now hangs the boxes will be placed. The founders objected to their present obscure position under the foyer stalls not only because of their distance from the stage, but on account of the modest participation in the decorative scheme of the auditorium.

The orchestra seats will be increased in number by the addition of several rows at the foot of the gallery and the space now occupied by the foyer stalls of the theatre will not be much diminished. The new seating scheme of the house beyond what the lowering of the ceiling requires.

There will also be arranged on the roof a small theatre with a seating capacity of about five hundred persons. This will occupy a space formerly intended for the use of the orchestra. The new seating scheme of the house beyond what the lowering of the ceiling requires.

"THE TURNING POINT" WINS

PRESTON GIBSON'S PLAY HAS GENUINE STRENGTH.

Not the Work of a Well Equipped Playwright but Strong in the Right Places—The Author Explains the Mistake of Providing Only One Real Bit of Melody in the Score.

"The Turning Point," a three act play of modern life by Preston Gibson, had a hearing last night at the Hackett Theatre, which has recently offered so many novelties to the attention of New York. The play had its first performance at a New York theatre in the Virginia home of a New York speculator and in a drawing room in this city. Its characters are transferred from one milieu to the other with no violent wrench of the probabilities, which were generally treated with respect throughout the drama.

An obviously friendly audience received Mr. Gibson's play with more than usual favor. There are many features of the production—and they are in the main due to the author—which should recommend "The Turning Point" to audiences here and abroad in its behalf.

The New York speculator not only tries to take advantage of the young virgin who owns the right of way in the country, but he seduces a native girl, loses the money of the friends who confided in his schemes and wins the hand of a daughter who to the end of the play is an embittered mother consents to become his wife.

His love for this girl, however, had awakened in him a sense of the young virgin who owns the right of way in the country, but he seduces a native girl, loses the money of the friends who confided in his schemes and wins the hand of a daughter who to the end of the play is an embittered mother consents to become his wife.

Mr. Gibson's play is not the work of an experienced dramatist and his characters often moved about in their various situations with greater regard for theatrical exigencies than for reasonable human motives. This weakness is especially noticeable in the second act, which contains a sufficiently explanatory conversation, but scarcely a suggestion of drama.

The second act, however, and it is played in an uncommonly well-realized realistic New York drawing room, showed in several scenes the skill and feeling of a true playwright. When the speculative mother demands that the daughter marry the man who has seduced her, she has several times refused, and again when the country lover, crazed at the knowledge of his betrayed sweetheart's death, returns to the city, he finds himself on the wrong man, whose two episodes had genuine theatrical strength and showed that Mr. Gibson may accomplish his aim when he has the opportunity and facility in exercising the tools of his trade. He gave evidence of possessing sufficient instinct as a playwright to realize that the value of these two scenes, as well as any other that really counted in "The Turning Point," came from the superior knowledge of the audience over the men and women of the stage.

Never did this time honored tradition of construction work out its effects more effectively. The play was a New York widow delivered her irrelevant epigrams with so much charm and daintiness, when she was able to remember them, that the audience was left with the impression of a well-organized and well-prepared performance. Charles Goldthorpe played with earnestness and fervor the role of the awakened Virginia farmer, and Cuyler and the other actors played their parts with much skill and taste.

Gibson's friends wanted to see him after the second act, and he gratified their curiosity. In a very modest and straightforward speech he defended himself against the charge of being a lack of preparation. Charles Goldthorpe played with earnestness and fervor the role of the awakened Virginia farmer, and Cuyler and the other actors played their parts with much skill and taste.

The lines appeared in part, quite detached and introduced for their own sake in the true manner of Wilde. In any case the success of the young author won in his play.

There was an admirable *Arquid* in Mr. Gibson's play, and he gratified their curiosity. In a very modest and straightforward speech he defended himself against the charge of being a lack of preparation. Charles Goldthorpe played with earnestness and fervor the role of the awakened Virginia farmer, and Cuyler and the other actors played their parts with much skill and taste.

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ANOTHER MUSICAL FARCE.

One Song Provides Title and Most of the Melody of "Bright Eyes."

"Bright Eyes," a so-called musical play based upon the farce "Mistakes Will Happen," came to the New York Theatre last night. The author, who is a New York writer, has made a musical play out of a farce, and has made a musical play out of a farce, and has made a musical play out of a farce.

The play hadn't progressed far when the prima donna first sang the song. It earned three encores from the audience and three or four more from the friends of the authors. Then the chorus sang it. The prima donna sang it again and crooning her own accompaniment on the piano. By that time most of the audience could hum it. In the second act the leading lady sang it once more, and between the acts the orchestra leader favored with still another rendition. It's a nice number, but one song doesn't make a musical show, even though it constitutes a large part of this one.

The first act, although it disclosed a familiar scene, was promising. The setting represented the bare stage of a theatre and the show girls came trooping in, and the show girls came trooping in, and the show girls came trooping in.

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COLLEGE ADVERTISING WAYS

BOOMING WORK CRITICIZED BY DR. HENRY S. PRITCHETT.

President of the Carnegie Foundation Points Out Bad Results of "Untrained" Methods of Advertising.

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, writes on the widespread custom of college advertising in the fourth annual report of the president of the foundation, issued yesterday. He says that advertising by colleges resolves itself in the end to one not so good as that of a far sighted policy. He points in particular to some of the unusual advertising efforts made by various higher educational institutions and he characterizes as "extraordinary" some of the statements made in the literature sent out by the Presbyterian College Board.

There is also an explanation in the report of the foundation's attitude toward State institutions which take proprietary medical and law schools under affiliation and which thus foster "an enormous overproduction of ill trained doctors and half educated lawyers."

President Pritchett says that the practice of securing publicity for colleges has spread in recent years to proportions far beyond the limits of original conservatism and it is responsible in large measure for the presence in the colleges of ill prepared students who otherwise would be in local schools. The report says:

Harvard College appears to have led in this matter, as in many others. The first advertisement of Harvard in the *Atlantic Monthly* was printed in February, 1870, and at that time occasioned much discussion as being a departure from one of the traditional canons of academic dignity. Since that day the habit has spread. A college which cannot afford Harvard's equipment finds it quite possible to outdo the university in its advertisements. The youth in the small town, therefore, such as this: "College Better than University," "Finest College Spirit," "Every College Activity," "Long established and dominant tone of culture," "Education par excellence," "Glorious location," "The president of one college says in his last annual report: 'About two million copies of the following ad have been printed in our church papers.'"

One of the common educational advertisements to catch the eye is that of the University of Chicago in connection with its medical department, which reads as follows:

"Home study. The University of Chicago offers correspondence courses in over thirty subjects for teachers, writers, social workers, ministers, physicians, bankers and students of all other types of scientists. Better than University," "Finest College Spirit," "Every College Activity," "Long established and dominant tone of culture," "Education par excellence," "Glorious location," "The president of one college says in his last annual report: 'About two million copies of the following ad have been printed in our church papers.'"

Dr. Pritchett turns to a pamphlet issued by the Presbyterian College Board, which contains the most remarkable advertisement of Presbyterian colleges throughout the country. The pamphlet is a collection of statements which begin:

"The board aims to have every Presbyterian college nearly as good as a copy of the first college of the apostles. Reasons are stated in detail why colleges should remain denominational and of them Dr. Pritchett picks one which is a good example of the kind of thing which should be avoided."

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EXCLUSIVE SHOWING OF EARLY ENGLISH DESIGNS

Our Spring and Summer exhibit of Dining Room and Library Suites in Jacobean, Elizabethan and the early English periods, so much in vogue at present, is particularly interesting.

The peculiar decorative quality of the "old oak" in which these pieces are finished, the simple yet massive ornamentations and generous proportions make them especially suited for the Summer home.

The extremely moderate prices at which these exclusive designs are marked make them attractive to all. Early inspection is particularly invited.

GEO. C. FLINT & Co.

40-47 WEST 23rd ST. 24-26 WEST 24th ST.

NOT A CLOSED INCIDENT. DEAD AT 110.

Summit Mass Meeting Over the Dismissal of Miss Connolly.

SUMMIT, N. J., Feb. 28.—A mass meeting will be held to-morrow night in Beechwood Hall, this city, by the friends of Miss Louise Connolly, who insist that the public schools be closed and the Board of Education shall not remain a closed incident. They will propound a series of questions and demand answers from the Board of Education. The questions are:

First, whether the opinion of 800 residents who signed a petition in behalf of Miss Connolly can be ignored by the Board; secondly, whether the city is to have a high or a low standard of education; thirdly, whether the schools are to be the football of politics, regulated by caprice and animosity or administered by competent persons in the interest of education; and fourthly, whether the city will consent to unwarranted attacks on the professional standing of its public servants.

Invitations have been sent to the members of the Board of Education to be present at the meeting and to state what is to be said, but it is hardly expected that they will all be there.

PURE FOOD CONGRESS.